

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

RONALD STENNIS,

Plaintiff,

CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-14870

v.

DISTRICT JUDGE DENISE PAGE HOOD

COMMISSIONER OF
SOCIAL SECURITY,

MAGISTRATE JUDGE MARK A. RANDON

Defendant.

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION TO
DISMISS CASE FOR FAILURE TO PROSECUTE**

I. RECOMMENDATION

IT IS RECOMMENDED that the case be **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE FOR
WANT OF PROSECUTION** pursuant to Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

II. REPORT

A. Introduction

Judge Denise Page Hood referred this Social Security judicial review case to this Magistrate Judge for general case management on November 8, 2011. (Dkt. No. 4). Pursuant to the Scheduling Order (Dkt. No. 11), Plaintiff's motion for summary judgment was due on or before March 26, 2012. On March 30, 2012, the Court extended the deadline to April 25, 2012. The deadline was extended for a second time on April 26, 2012; Plaintiff had until May 25, 2012 to file a motion for summary judgment. On June 13, 2012, the Court extended Plaintiff's deadline to June 25, 2012. Since Plaintiff did not file a motion for summary judgment by the

June 25, 2012 deadline, on July 5, 2012, an Order to Show Cause was entered notifying Plaintiff that if he did not file a motion for summary judgment by July 18, 2012, his case may be dismissed. (Dkt. No. 15). Although untimely, Plaintiff responded to the Show Cause Order on July 20, 2012. (Dkt. No. 16). Plaintiff indicated to the Court that “[c]ounsel will strictly review all filings in the future to avoid any future mishaps. Therefore, counsel respectfully requests this court grant through July 25, 2012, in which counsel can file the brief herein.” (Dkt. No. 16 at 1-2). Plaintiff also indicated that “[n]o further time will be needed.” (Dkt. No. 16 at 2). Finally, Plaintiff “respectfully request[ed] this Court not dismiss the case and allow the filing of Plaintiff’s opening brief on or before July 25, 2012.” (Dkt. No. 16 at 3).

On July 23, 2012, this Court vacated its Show Cause Order, and gave Plaintiff until July 25, 2012 to file his motion for summary judgment. (Dkt. No. 17). The Court indicated that “[n]o further extensions will be granted to Plaintiff.” (Dkt. No. 17 at 1). To date, however, Plaintiff has not filed a motion.

B. Discussion

Rule 41(b) gives a court the authority to dismiss a case for “failure of the plaintiff to prosecute or to comply with these rules or any order of the court....” Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b). “This measure is available to the district court as a tool to effect ‘management of its docket and avoidance of unnecessary burdens on the tax-supported courts [and] opposing parties.’” *Knoll v. American Tel. & Tel. Co.*, 176 F.3d 359, 363 (6th Cir. 1999) (quoting *Matter of Sanction of Baker*, 744 F.2d 1438, 1441 (10th Cir. 1984)). “Not only may a district court dismiss for want of prosecution upon motion of a defendant, but it may also *sua sponte* dismiss an action whenever necessary to ‘achieve the orderly and expeditious disposition of cases.’” *Anthony v. Marion Co. Gen. Hosp.*, 617 F.2d 1164, 1167 (5th Cir. 1980) (quoting *Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S.

626 (1962)). When deciding whether to dismiss a case for want of prosecution, courts are guided by competing concerns:

On the one hand, there is the court's need to manage its docket, the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation, and the risk of prejudice to a defendant because the plaintiff has failed to actively pursue its claims.... On the other hand is the policy which favors disposition of cases on their merits.

Little v. Yeutter, 984 F.2d 160, 162 (6th Cir.1993) (citation omitted).

In this case, Plaintiff's motion for summary judgment was originally due on March 26, 2012. That deadline was ultimately extended to July 18, 2012. Despite a nearly four month extension, Plaintiff has still failed to file a dispositive motion, or even a letter explaining his arguments (as the Court suggested). In addition, Plaintiff was specifically warned that the case may be dismissed should he fail to file a motion for summary judgment (Dkt. No. 15), and the Court specifically informed the Plaintiff that no further extensions would be granted. (Dkt. No. 17). Defendant should not be further prejudiced by Plaintiff's failure to pursue his claims. This outcome is consistent with the prevailing practice throughout this circuit. *See, e.g., Gayles v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec.*, No. 09-11914, 2010 WL 3582553, at *1 (E.D. Mich. Sept. 9, 2010) (Rosen, J.) (adopting Report and Recommendation to dismiss case for failure to prosecute under 41(b) where plaintiff argued his failure to file a motion for summary judgment was due to his failed attempts to find a lawyer); *Miles-Richardson v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec.*, No. 09-11275, 2010 WL 1790976, at * 1 (E.D. Mich. May 3, 2010) (Zatkoff, J.) (dismissing with prejudice for failure to prosecute under 41(b)); *McNaughton v. Comm'r of Soc. Sec.*, No. 09-10766, 2009 WL 4646029, at *2 (E.D. Mich. Dec. 4, 2009) (Borman, J.) (dismissing with prejudice for failure to prosecute under 41(b)); *Hardison v. Soc. Sec. Admin.*, No. 3:10-0171, 2010 WL 4624227, at * 1 (M.D. Tenn. Nov. 5, 2010) (recommending dismissal for failure to prosecute); *Nard v. Comm'r of Soc.*

Sec., No. C-1-06-322, 2008 WL 906050, at *1 (S.D. Ohio Mar. 31, 2008) (dismissing with prejudice for failure to prosecute under 41(b)); *Johnson v. Sanders*, No. 07-2029, 2008 WL 199706, at * 1 (W.D. Tenn. Jan. 23, 2008) (dismissing with prejudice for failure to prosecute under 41(b)).

C. Conclusion

Because Plaintiff has failed to comply with the Court's Scheduling Order, even after a specific warning that failure to do so could result in the dismissal of his case, this Magistrate Judge concludes that Plaintiff has failed to undertake a meaningful effort to prosecute this lawsuit in a diligent manner. As a result, **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that this case be **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE** for failure to prosecute.

The parties to this action may object to and seek review of this Report and Recommendation, but are required to act within fourteen (14) days of service of a copy hereof as provided for in 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b)(2). Failure to file specific objections constitutes a waiver of any further right of appeal. *See Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140 (1985); *Howard v. Secretary of HHS*, 932 F.2d 505, 508 (6th Cir. 1991); *United States v. Walters*, 638 F.2d 947, 949-50 (6th Cir. 1981). The filing of objections which raise some issues, but fail to raise others with specificity, will not preserve all the objections a party might have to this Report and Recommendation. *See Willis v. Secretary of HHS*, 931 F.2d 390, 401 (6th Cir. 1991); *Smith v. Detroit Fed'n of Teachers Local 231*, 829 F.2d 1370, 1373 (6th Cir. 1987). Pursuant to E.D. Mich. LR 72.1(d)(2), a copy of any objections is to be served upon this magistrate judge.

Within fourteen (14) days of service of any objecting party's timely filed objections, the opposing party may file a response. The response shall be no more than 20 pages in length

unless, by motion and order, the page limit is extended by the court. The response shall address each issue contained within the objections specifically and in the same order raised.

s/Mark A. Randon

Mark A. Randon

United States Magistrate Judge

Dated: July 30, 2012

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing document was mailed to the parties of record on this date, July 30, 2012, by electronic and/or ordinary mail.

s/Melody R. Miles

Case Manager to Magistrate Judge Mark A. Randon
(313) 234-5540